

Appl. No. : **09/595,096**
Filed : **June 15, 2000**

REMARKS

The Applicants have herein cancelled Claims 1-7, 9-10, 21-27, and 29-30 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations previously found in Claims 1 and 7. Similarly, Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations previously found in Claims 21 and 27. Claims 8 and 28 remain pending in the application. The Applicants have carefully considered all of the Examiner's rejections but respectfully submit that the claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Rejections under § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7, 9, 21-27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over McMartin et al. (J. Comp-Aided Molec. Design (1997) vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 333-344) in view of Wang et al. (Proteins (1999) vol. 36, no. 1, pp. 1-19). Claims 10 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) further in view of Zhao (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,528). The Applicants have herein cancelled Claims 1-7, 9-10, 21-27, and 29-30, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejections moot.

Objections to Claims 8 and 28

The Examiner objected to Claims 8 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected claim base. Claims 8 and 28 have been rewritten in independent forms including all limitations found in their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that they have overcome the objections.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 8 and 28 contain allowable subject matter. These are the only claims currently pending in the application. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request a timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.


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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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